

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTRE 00751 112001Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04
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R 111930Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8944
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL QUEBEC

UNCLAS MONTREAL 751

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJ: FRANCOPHONE FEDERAL WORKERS IN MONTREAL TO SPEAK FRENCH ONLY

1. FOR THE SECOND TIME IN LESS THAN TWO YEARS, FEDERAL WORKERS IN MONTREAL ARE REFUSING TO SERVE THE PUBLIC IN ENGLISH, IN SUPPORT OF A DEMAND FOR BILINGUAL BONUSES. THE BOYCOTT OF ENGLISH DOES NOT APPLY TO THE POST OFFICE, WHOSE WORKERS ARE REPRESENTED BY A DIFFERENT UNION.
2. IN DECEMBER 1975, THE UNION STATED IT WAS "CONSIDERING WITHDRAWING SUCH SERVICES" BUT BACKED DOWN TO A CLARIFICATION THAT EMPLOYEES IN UNILINGUAL JOBS WOULD WORK ONLY IN THAT ONE LANGUAGE WHILE BILINGUAL JOBS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE PERFORMED IN EITHER LANGUAGE. IN THE PRESENT INSTANCE, THE UNION SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED THAT THE WORKERS WOULD CEASE TO USE ENGLISH SOMETIME NEXT WEEK AND WOULD NOT SPEAK IT "UNLESS THEY REALLY HAVE TO AS A LAST RESORT".
3. THE LATE 1975 ACTION WAS ENDED BY A FEDERAL TREASURY BOARD AGREEMENT TO STUDY THE QUESTION OF BONUSES. AT THAT TIME THE BOARD SAID THE DELAY WAS CAUSED BY FAILURE OF THE UNION TO COME TO AGREEMENT ON A PAY SCALE FOR SUCH SKILL. THE STUDY IS STILL GOING ON, WITH THE UNION NOW CLAIMING THAT A SLIDING SCALE IS

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UNACCEPTABLE WHILE BOARD CHAIRMAN ROBERT ANDRAS HAS INSISTED THERE MUST BE A SLIDING SCALE RATHER THAN A FLAT BONUS.

4. IT CANNOT BE GUESSED HOW LONG THE STALEMATE WILL LAST. IT WILL, HOWEVER, BE VIEWED BY ANGLOPHONES AS ONE MORE LOG ON THE FIRE OF THEIR PRESENT CONCERN ABOUT ENGLISH LINGUISTIC RIGHTS IN THIS PROVINCE.

HARPER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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